

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 ARA-16 EA-11 EUR-25 RSC-01 CCO-00

INRE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-15 ACDA-19 IO-15 USSS-00 A-01 AID-20 NIC-01 OPR-02

SCA-01 SCS-03 SY-10 OMB-01 /204 R

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR POSTS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

S E C R E T STATE 200526

INFORM CONSULS

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: XX

SUBJECT: MIDDLE EAST SITUATION

REF: STATE 199799

1. FOLLOWING FYI IS SUMMARY OF MIDDLE EAST SITUATION
THROUGH EVENING OCTOBER 9.

2. ISRAELI COUNTEROFFENSIVES AGAINST SYRIA AND EGYPT
APPEARED TO BE STALLED AT NIGHTFALL OCT. 9. SYRIAN FORCES
TODAY STABILIZED A NEW LINE ON THE GOLAN HEIGHTS WHICH
CLOSELY APPROXIMATES THE 1967 CEASE-FIRE LINE THERE.
HEAVY FIGHTING THROUGHOUT THE DAY HAS NOT PRODUCED ANY
SIGNIFICANT BREAKTHROUGHS BY EITHER SIDE. SYRIA IS HOLD-
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ING WELL, IT APPEARS, EVEN THOUGH ISRAEL HAS AIR

SUPERIORITY IN THAT AREA. WAR BETWEEN SYRIA AND ISRAEL SPREAD TO CIVILIAN CENTERS WHEN ISRAEL, IN RETALIATION FOR SYRIAN FROG MISSILES LAUNCHED AT CIVILIAN TARGETS, BOMBED DAMASCUS AND HOMS. ISRAELIS SAY THEY HIT SYRIAN DEFENSE MINISTRY AND RADIO STATION IN DAMASCUS AND AN OIL REFINERY IN HOMS. SYRIANS SAY ISRAELIS HIT RESIDENTIAL AND FOREIGN EMBASSY QUARTERS, INCLUDING THE SOVIET CULTURAL CENTER. PRESS REPORTS SAY SOME THIRTY SOVIETS, A NORWEGIAN UN OFFICER AND HIS FAMILY AND OTHER CIVILIANS KILLED IN BOMBING.

3. ISRAELI ATTACKS AGAINST THE EGYPTIAN BRIDGEHEADS ARE UNDOUBTEDLY SLOWED BY THE SAMS AND ARTILLERY WEST OF THE CANAL: ARMORED UNITS ARE EXPOSED TO THE MASSED ARTILLERY WHILE ATTACKING THE BRIDGEHEADS; AIRCRAFT ATTACKING THE ARTILLERY WOULD BE EXPOSED TO THE SAM DEFENSES FURTHER WEST; TO TAKE OUT THE EGYPTIAN SAMS FROM THE AIR WOULD BE TO RISK REPEATING THE HEAVY LOSSES ISRAEL EXPERIENCED IN ATTACKING THE SYRIAN SAM BELT. THIS IS THE CRUX OF THE ISRAELI PROBLEM IN THE SINAI.

4. ISRAELI SPOKESMAN BACKED AWAY LATE OCT. 9 FROM OCT. 8 STATEMENT THAT ISRAEL HAD DRIVEN SYRIANS OFF GOLAN HEIGHTS AND WAS CLOSE TO DRIVING EGYPTIANS BACK ACROSS SUEZ CANAL. PRESS REPORTS LATE OCT. 9 QUOTE SENIOR IDF SPOKESMEN AS SAYING SYRIAN FRONT STABILIZED BUT ISRAEL HAS YET TO BREAK SYRIAN ARMY. IDF SPOKESMEN SAID ISRAEL'S BAR-LEV LINE IMMEDIATELY EAST OF CANAL GIVEN UP IN FAVOR NEW LINE SOME 3-4 MILES FURTHER EAST. ISRAELI OFFICIALS AND MEDIA PREPARING ISRAELIS FOR LONG, "SLUGGING MATCH", WAR. ISRAELIS HAVE NOT YET RELEASED ANY CASUALTY FIGURES, BUT CASUALTIES ARE BELIEVED TO BE HIGH.

5. THERE ARE SEVERAL REPORTS OF FEDAYEEN FIRING FROM LEBANON INTO ISRAEL DURING PAST 24 HOURS, PROMPTING SPECULATION ABOUT POSSIBLE ISRAELI ACTION AGAINST LEBANON. KING HUSSEIN CONTINUES TO BE UNDER PRESSURE TO THROW JORDAN INTO BATTLE. SYRIANS ARE REPORTEDLY PRESSING HUSSEIN HARD, AS IS MOOD IN ARAB WORLD WHICH IS BUOYED

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BY ARAB STEADFASTNESS AND COMPETENCE IN BATTLE. OTHER ARAB STATES PROVIDING ARMS AND MONEY AND, IN SOME CASES, SMALL CONTINGENTS OF TROOPS AS WAR GOES ON.

6. WE ESTIMATE THAT THE FIGHTING WILL GO ON FOR SEVERAL MORE DAYS. ISRAEL FACES SERIOUS OBSTACLES TO CLEARING THE SINAI AND THE GOI IS COMING UNDER POPULAR PRESSURE TO GO FURTHER AND WIPE OUT THE ARAB ARMIES. EMBASSY TEL

AVIV ESTIMATES THAT HIGHER THE CASUALTIES MOUNT, THE GREATER WILL BE THE ISRAELI DETERMINATION TO INFLICT CRIPPLING DAMAGE ON THE ARABS.

7. UN SECURITY COUNCIL SESSION EVENING OCT. 9 DEALT RHETORICALLY WITH CIVILIAN CASUALTY INCIDENTS ON BOTH SIDES. THUS FAR THERE ARE NO DRAFT RESOLUTIONS DEALING WITH WAR ITSELF BUT SOMETHING SEEMS LIKELY TO APPEAR OCT. 10, FROM AFRICAN OR OTHER THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES.

8. FOREGOING IS FOR YOUR BACKGROUND. KISSINGER

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